

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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**BEACON OF HOPE** — First Church, Moore, Okla., has become a beacon of hope for the tornado-ravaged community of Moore. Senior pastor Alan Cox said more than 400 volunteers from their church are involved in the relief effort. (BP photos by Morris Abernathy)



## WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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## Cleanup crews begin arriving in Okla.

**OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)** — Relief efforts for tornado-ravaged Oklahomans have begun moving into a new phase as chainsaw-bearing crews from across the South begin arriving to assist with massive cleanup operations.

Sam Porter, Oklahoma Convention Men's Ministry director, said damage assessment stands at 3,320 houses destroyed; 1,832 houses having received major damage; and 3,199 houses receiving minor damage.

"While the feeding seems to be stabilizing, the recovery is gearing up," he said.

Volunteers in Oklahoma as of May 13 had completed a total of 243 cleanup projects.

LifeWay Christian Resources, meanwhile, is contributing \$14,000 to disaster relief funds in the two states in the aftermath of the tornado damage.

A check for \$10,000 is being sent to the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and \$4,000 to the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists.

"These gifts are for use in any ways the state conventions feel will be helpful as they assist churches in ministering to victims and looking toward rebuilding," LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr. said. "In the midst of the tragedy and loss, it has been encouraging to see many evidences of faith and victims able to testify that God's grace is sufficient."

In addition to the direct contributions, LifeWay provides one quarter of free literature and discounts on replacing items not covered by insurance. Calls are being made to churches known to have sustained damage to provide information about disaster assistance and identify needs. More information is available by calling LifeWay at (800) 357-7029.

First Church in Moore, Okla., which sustained some damage in the tornado, nevertheless remains a command center for the American Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other relief agencies.

In a national Associated Press story, Rick Whitaker, one of the church's ministers, recounted how the white cross atop First Baptist Church survived the tornado.

"All people could see after the tornado passed was the light of our cross and they started coming this way," Whitaker said. "From the moment the tornado happened, the church became the primary hub for this area."

Donations for Oklahoma Baptist relief efforts can be sent to Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief, 3800 N. May, Oklahoma City, OK 73112-6506. Oklahoma



**SEARCHING FOR MEMORIES** — Brian Coburn (right) and his cousin Valarie Lambert pick through the remains of his house in Moore, Okla. Valarie has just found Brian's Bible. Brian, his father, mother, and his sister were in the house when the storm hit. His mother Esther Coburn died after suffering injuries in the storm.

Baptists' disaster relief fund will be used to channel \$500 gifts to Baptist families with emergency needs, Anthony Jordan, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, has announced.

The disaster relief fund also will help with the cost of several Baptist disaster relief units preparing meals for tornado survivors and relief workers, Jordan said.

Donations for Baptist relief needs in Kansas, meanwhile, in the wake of tornadoes there, can be sent to the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists, Attn.: Disaster Relief, 5410 SW 7th St., Topeka, KS 66606.

Numerous students from Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) in Shawnee have been among the relief workers in the

Oklahoma City area, according to a report filed by OBU student newswriter Stacey Keller. OBU nursing students, for example, volunteered at Oklahoma City's Integris Southwest Medical Center and at Midwest City Hospital caring for some of the hundreds of injured.

In Linden, Tenn., cleanup and recovery volunteers are working in the wake of a powerful storm that struck the area May 5.

First Church of Linden also suffered extensive damage to the roof of its family life center and suffered water damage in the sanctuary. "These items were the greatest extent of damages except for loss of numerous trees and incidental wind damage along the storm's path," reported Dick Staggs, a Tennessee Disaster Relief volunteer.

## Brunson going to First Church, Dallas

**DALLAS (BP)** — Mac Brunson, president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, is the new pastor of First Church, Dallas, following a unanimous vote by the historic Texas congregation May 9.

Brunson, 41, was approved on a voice vote following a Sunday of preaching and visiting with the congregation, which voted on a recommendation from a search committee. The senior pastor of Green Street Church, High Point, N.C., since 1992, Brunson was elected president of the state convention in 1997.

He is the third pastor this decade for the church, one of the most well-known in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and one of the largest with 26,000 members. Brunson succeeds O. S. Hawkins who was named president of the SBC Annuity Board 18 months ago. Ken Hemphill, president of Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, where Brunson is a graduate, served as interim pastor.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Arson is suspected in the burning of the portable chapel that housed Bayside Church, a mission of First Church, Bay St. Louis. The trailer, owned by Gulf Coast Association, was completely destroyed. The church is meeting in a damaged Sunday School trailer. Robert Cooper is pastor.

### 20 years ago

In an interview with Baptist Press, two-term president of the Southern Baptist Convention Jimmy Allen expresses fear that the denomination might be shifting away from Bold Mission Thrust's goal of proclaiming Christ to everyone in the world, to the issue of biblical infallibility and inerrancy.

### 50 years ago

Construction is underway on a building for West Jackson Church, Jackson, on two lots donated by W. P. Bridges. Founded in 1946 with 24 charter members, West Jackson Church now has a membership of 72 and is meeting in homes. Clyde Parkman is pastor.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Missrecord@aol.com

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# Thoughts on being left out

Check the program for the upcoming Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 15-16 in Atlanta. Check it again. Check it a third time if you like, but you still won't find the name of a single Mississippi Baptist included on the list of people invited to be a part of the program.

That's an awfully strange way to treat a group of faithful brothers and sisters who have been unwavering in both their prayer support and sacrificial giving for the life of the Southern Baptist Convention — and that's never been truer than right now.

For several consecutive years, Mississippi Baptists have led the entire Southern Baptist Convention in gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

In 1997 (the last year for which totals are currently available), Mississippi Baptists gave over 11% of the total Lottie Moon receipts from the entire Southern Baptist Convention. Mississippi Baptists gave \$11,192,594, while Southern Baptists gave \$100,064,318. Both were record amounts.

Mississippi Baptists were the only ones who recorded double-digits in Lottie Moon per capita giving (\$16.07), which was nearly double the next-closest state.

Mississippi Baptists also led the Southern Baptist Convention that year in Lottie Moon percentage increase (39.86%) and dollar increase (\$3,190,047) over the previous year.

Also in 1997, Mississippi churches accounted for seven of the top churches in Cooperative Program giving in the entire Southern Baptist Convention, including the number three church (First, Jackson), number six church (First, Brandon), and number 28 church (Broadmoor, Jackson).

The accounting could go on and on. All of our Southern Baptist Convention giving is on top of the obligations we meet in our own state convention, our associations, and our individual churches, and that doesn't even count the worth of all the volunteer hours put in by Mississippi Baptists literally around the world.

All in all, Mississippi is inarguably one of the strongest states — if not the strongest — in the Southern Baptist Convention.

So why was Mississippi overlooked at this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting? That's a good question that might find some answers in the program itself and in meeting-related committee appointments.

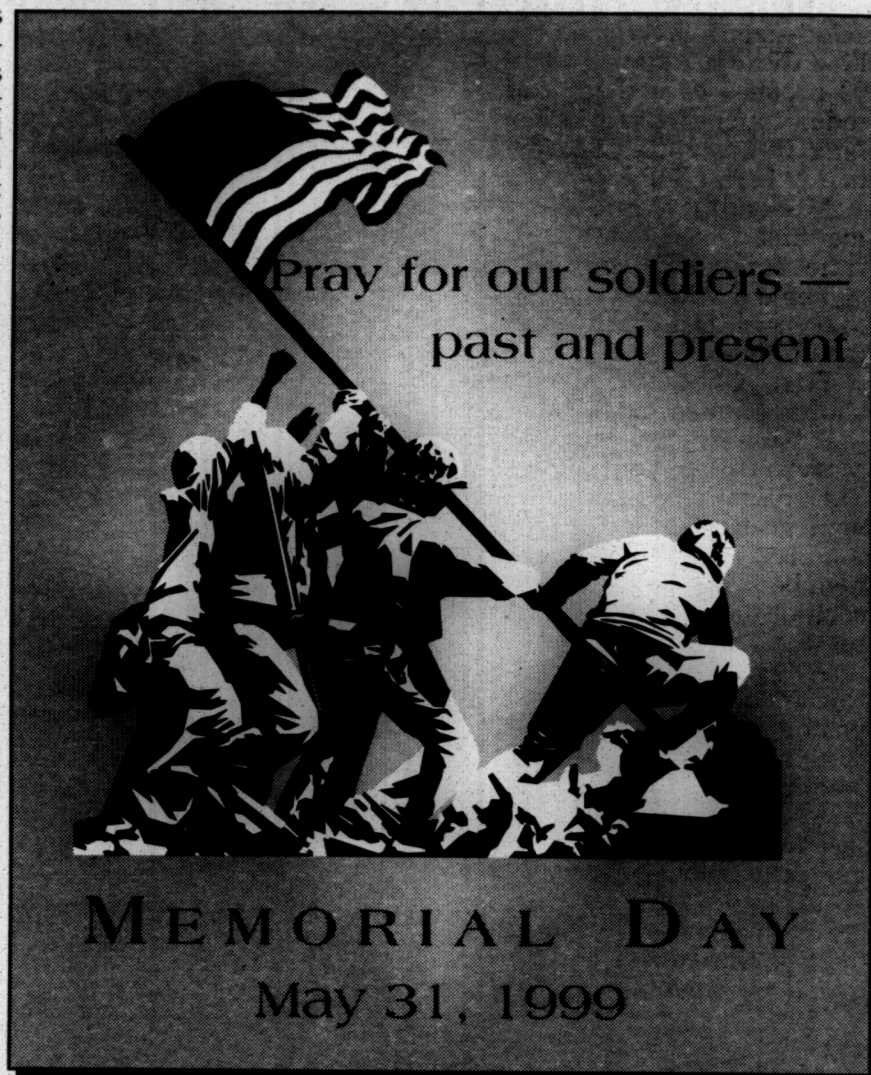
While Mississippi Baptists go unrepresented after more than a century of unmatched cooperation, there is room on the program for Jerry Falwell, the Virginia preacher/politician who joined the denomination a mere two years ago by offering a minimal Cooperative Program contribution through the upstart Virginia conservative convention — and who continues to divide his loyalty between Southern Baptists and other groups.

In addition, when the convention's resolutions, credentials, and tellers committees are announced at the beginning of the Atlanta meeting, only one Mississippian's name will be heard. Terry Cutrer, pastor of First Church, Baldwin, will serve on the tellers committee.

That's it. Cutrer is the sole Mississippian on those three important committees.

It must be pointed out that putting together such a complex program for a national meeting as large as the Southern Baptist Convention can be an overwhelming task.

Invitees decline. Invitees accept and then back out when the program is almost complete. Other invitees never respond. Possibly Mississippi Baptists were invited to be on the program and simply couldn't make the meeting this year.



It's also true that all 16 million Southern Baptists can't be on the convention program in a single year or even a single millennium, for that matter.

With all due respect for the efforts of the 1999 Committee on the Order of Business — another important Southern Baptist Convention committee with no Mississippi Baptist representation — it hurts to be left out. It really hurts.

We must remember that fact as a denomination, as a state convention, as associations, and as individual churches.

As followers of Jesus Christ, we already have the ultimate model of inclusion. In the future, let's follow that model like we really believe it.

## PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL



### Remedy for a nation in turmoil

By Dean Register, president  
Mississippi Baptist Convention

nation has dined at the table of licentiousness for nearly two decades?

Admittedly our churches must confess failure too. When recent surveys reveal that Christian students show no higher moral standards than the world we have neglected to equip them for battle.

When worship services convey the boredom of a snail exhibit we have failed to exalt the majesty of Jesus. When evangelism and discipleship are relegated to the bottom of the church's priority list, it is time to cry out in repentance and to ask for our Father's mercy.

The truth revealed to the Chronicler is ours for the taking: "If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

The memories of Littleton, Colorado, like the memories of Pearl, Mississippi; Paducah, Kentucky; and Jonesboro, Arkansas, will linger forever.

We need healing. I am convinced that our only hope of prevention, and our only recourse for healing, lies in the

transforming power of Jesus Christ.

From the carnage at Columbine, the Lord has already raised up testimonies of his grace. Cassie Bernall's face will not brighten the hallway of her school again, but the memory of her faith in Christ will shine forever.

She stood up when the gunman asked if she believed in God. Courageously she replied, "Yes. I do!"

When her limp body was discovered, there was a bracelet on her backpack with the question "What would Jesus do?"

Jesus would change the world.

Perhaps the tragedy in Littleton can start the spiritual awakening our nation desperately needs. The one and only remedy is a transformation of the heart by a personal relationship with the Savior.

Anything less is futile.

Register is pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.



# Revival ongoing in Mississippi's partnership state

ELKTON, Md. (BP) — A "God-sized" revival fell upon First Church, Elkton, Md., with 93 professions of faith and 30 rededications in services beginning Palm Sunday and culminating Easter Sunday.

Mississippi Baptists are in the first year of a three-year state convention partnership agreement with Baptists in the Maryland/Delaware area of the northeast U.S.

First Church is a small church of about 200 (including the babies), just across the Maryland line from Delaware. Most of the professions of faith were residents in the surrounding area who were not church members. People were saved at each of the services during the revival.

Asked how momentum toward the revival began, said pastor Earl Taylor, "God convicted us that we just weren't leading people to the Lord. So we sought his face and his will, individually and collectively, and prayed for revival. And we received exceedingly abundantly more than we asked. To God be the glory!" The pastor said God showed the congrega-

tion they needed to love and care for the needs of the community.

"The planning and preparation paid off," Taylor noted. Members of First Church had been asking the Lord for revival for more than seven months. Committees were formed, which were deacon-led (the church has only six deacons), to address the needs for prayer, counselor training, phone calls, visitation, publicity, and special emphasis nights.

Taylor prepared his congregation with messages on victory based on the Old Testament Book of Joshua from January to March. Church members also had been applying the principals of the "Experiencing God" discipleship course and had developed several study groups.

Taylor contacted the guest preacher, Randy Hogue, an evangelist from Gadsden, Ala., about three months prior to the revival. When Taylor first called, Hogue was booked solid for the week. Upon confirming his schedule, previously booked events fell through which allowed Hogue to come to Elkton.

Hogue came and not only led in revival services, but also spoke to four student assemblies in three Cecil County public schools: Elkton High, Elkton Middle, and Providence Middle. He was so well received that several schools in the county now want him to return. Hogue goes into hundreds of schools each year, teaching about drug awareness, abstinence, and teen suicide. His brother, Andy, died from a drug overdose, so Hogue speaks from firsthand experience.

"It wasn't Randy, and it wasn't us," Taylor said. "God just sent it [revival]. I want to give God the glory."

"We knew revival was in the air," the pastor continued. "You could just feel it. And the people knew it too. People sensed it. It was God-sized, beyond what we could ever put together."

Taylor said the revival was not only within the church, but also within the community. "There is a tremendous turning of young people to God. They wanted something that is real. And Jesus is real," Taylor said.

This was evidenced by 65 of the 93 professions of faith being from youth in the community.

Wednesday night of the revival was youth night. The church held a pizza blast, coupled with a mini-concert by the contemporary group New Vision. About 275 youth from the area "blasted" the church, playing basketball and riding skateboards.

The church is now doing follow-up with the deacon body leading the way. Counselors — teenagers through senior adult trained by the pastor — are now encouraging the new believers in their new walks of faith.

Asked how he felt about getting back into the pulpit the next Sunday to follow such an outpouring of the Spirit, Taylor replied, "Fired up and ready to go!"



## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

# THE BAPTIST Record

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## Associations ink historic partnership pact

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Lebanon Association, headquartered in Hattiesburg, has entered into an historic associational partnership mission agreement with Susquehanna Association in Havre de Grace, Maryland, announced George Berger, Lebanon Association director of missions (DOM) and Dan Sheffield, DOM for Susquehanna Baptists.

A signing ceremony was held at the spring meetings of the respective association earlier this year. Sheffield traveled to Hattiesburg for the Mississippi signing on April 27, at Greens Creek Church in Petal. Berger flew to Maryland for the other signing on May 11.

In addition to the special associational partnership agreement, the Mississippi Baptist Convention is in the first year of a three-year state convention partnership project with Baptists in the Maryland/Delaware area.

"We are excited about the partnership with Lebanon Association because it will bring a whole new dimension of partnership for us," said Sheffield.

"We have been very involved in partnerships for a number of years now. We have always gone to other areas to help other Christians in their service to the Lord.

"This will be the first time that we have had a partner who could come and help strengthen us in the Lord's work, but even more exciting is the possibility that this can be a "true partnership," where we can help each other. I hope that eventually we will have teams of workers flowing in both directions — Lebanon sending us workers and our association sending workers to Lebanon — that will be a true partnership, and that will be truly exciting," Sheffield said.

The Lebanon/Susquehanna missions agreement is the Mississippi association's response to the partnership agreement

between Mississippi Baptists and Maryland/Delaware Baptists signed at the 1998 state convention in Jackson, Berger said.

"The formal partnership agreement is modeled after the partnership agreement signed between the state conventions. It is a reciprocal agreement, with both associations sending teams to the other," Berger said.

The associational agreement is for three years, ending in 2001.

Berger said the partnership will involve pairing individual churches from the two associations as prayer partners, construction, and in direct missions.

In addition, Berger pointed out that the state Woman's Missionary Union Camp — Wometo — is located in Susquehanna Association, and that some partnership work will be accomplished at the camp.

Berger indicated that churches in Lebanon Association are already responding to the challenge.

"Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, has partnered with Calvary Church of the Rising Son, in Maryland.

"They will be swapping teams in the coming months," Berger said.

Berger detailed five mission trips to Susquehanna Association planned for this year by Lebanon Association.

Missions development is at the heart of the ministry of Lebanon Association, according to Berger.

"Every association is different. Some have ministry centers as their primary focus. Missions development is our primary emphasis," Berger said.

For more information about Susquehanna Association, visit their web site at [www.missionwings.org](http://www.missionwings.org).

For more information on the Lebanon/Susquehanna association agreement, contact Berger at 500 North 38th Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401. Telephone: (601) 261-2771.

For more information about partnership missions available to Mississippi Baptists, contact the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Partnership Mission Department at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 398.



**SIGNING UP AS PARTNERS** — George Berger, Director of Missions (DOM) for Lebanon Association in Mississippi, and Dan Sheffield, DOM for Susquehanna Association in Maryland, sign a three year partnership mission agreement on April 27, at Greens Creek Church, Petal, during the spring meeting of Lebanon Baptists. (BR special photo)



# Berger: associations undergoing big change

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

George Berger came to Lebanon Association as director of missions six years ago, after 30 years in the pastorate. He immediately realized that associational mission work was changing and in Lebanon Association, God was leading them to be involved in mission work at a new level.

"The primary emphasis of my work is pushing missions, both local and partnership missions around the nation and the world. Twenty-five years ago the work of the association was more program oriented; now it is much more mission oriented," he said.

"We try to stay solidly behind our programs, such as Sunday School and

Discipleship Training. However, I can resource the state convention in these areas. Missions development is our primary emphasis," Berger pointed out.

He recognizes that every association is different. While some associations have ministry centers as their primary focus, Berger discovered that in the Hattiesburg area there already were ongoing social ministries.

"When I came to Lebanon there was already the Christian Service Center and Bread Basket ministries in Hattiesburg. There were also clothing ministries for the needy, a prison ministry, nursing home ministries, and other senior adult ministries. So, why reinvent the wheel?" he asked.

"While other associations might need to develop ministries to feed, clothe, and help the needy, this was already being done. What we needed in Lebanon Association was mission development," he said.

Following the model learned from Experiencing God, Berger said the associational leadership began looking for areas where God was at work and where God was inviting them to join the work. As a result, volunteer mission work has become the primary focus of Lebanon Association.

The calendar for mission opportunities through Lebanon Association is full, with at least 13 mission trips involving over 200 people in 1999 alone.

These 13 trips are in addition to mission trips that individual churches are planning on their own. One church I know will make at least five trips to Mexico this year. Most of our 41 churches are participating," Berger said.

Berger has sought to cooperate with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and the MBCB Partnership Mission Department in coordinating the mission work. Currently, MBCB is involved in three partnership agreements with Baptists in:

- Maryland/Delaware
- Ukraine
- Honduras

Berger said one group has already been to Honduras and recorded 126 professions of faith. This fall a group is going to Ukraine, and five trips to Maryland/Delaware are planned for the remainder of the year.

The Maryland/Delaware partnership has grown so large that Lebanon Association signed its own partnership agreement with Maryland's Susquehanna Association. The partnership will last for the next three years (please see story page three).

They are not limited to the current state partnerships, either, Berger said.

"We have been asked to go to New Hampshire and to Rochester, New York. We also have one Alaska trip remaining from our partnership with them, and two Colorado trips remaining from our relationship with Colorado, one construction trip, the other to conduct five Vacation Bible Schools in Grand Junction," he said.

The association is not limited to work outside of Mississippi. Berger said there is a big push to do more mission work in the state.

"One group has already gone to the Mississippi Delta and put a roof on a church in Crenshaw. We have two other Delta mission trips planned this year.

"We have added several new churches to our association, two of them African-American churches.

"Another group is going to do construction work for another new church start in our association," he pointed out.

Berger sees more of the same for the future of Lebanon Baptists, but he realizes that every association is different.

"Take Jackson County, for example. They have the Seamans Center and the truckers ministries. The world is literally coming to their door step, and they have taken steps to do ministry that works," he said.

For Lebanon Baptists, they are going to the world, one mission trip at a time. Berger believes that not only does this bring people to Christ, it also rejuvenates the local church when men and women return with eye-witness accounts of how God is at work around the world and how a local church can play such a vital role.

## RAs donate to storm victims



Royal Ambassadors (RAs) from Roundaway Church, Doddsville, present Mississippi Men's Ministry Director Jim Didlake (fourth from left) with a check for \$1,100 to help Honduran farmers ravaged last year by Hurricane Mitch to get new seed. Roundaway Church RA leader Bobby Kirk (left), who also serves as president of the Mississippi Baptist Agri-Missions Fellowship, said the young men raised the money by holding a fish fry with supplies that were donated to them. Roundaway Church RAs include (from left after Kirk) Hunter Deerman, Stephen Harrell, Dustin Winstead, Bryan Deerman, and Jonathan Holloway. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## W.G. Stewart, pastor, dies

William Garven Stewart, 57, of Nesbit, pastor of DeSoto Woods Church, died of heart failure May 13 at Baptist Memorial Hospital-DeSoto in Southaven. Services were held May 16 at DeSoto Woods Church in Horn Lake with burial in New Bethlehem Cemetery.

Stewart, the husband of Barbara Stewart, also leaves a daughter Lanee James of Nesbit; two sons, William "Buddy" Stewart of Southaven and Bobby Stewart of Nesbit; his mother, Flora Lee Stewart, and a sister, Mary Stepp, both of Nesbit, and seven grandchildren.

### STRAWBERRY SPIRITUALITY

It was in the spring. Flowers were trying to bloom, grass was starting to "green-up," and Louisiana strawberries were coming on the market. I stopped to pick up some sweet, red berries from down in Louisiana, and I got more than strawberries. While explaining why they were so expensive, the man gave me a lesson in "Strawberry-ology." I did not ask for the seminar; it simply came with the product.

The man explained that strawberries only ripen at night and would not ripen when there was a south wind. I listened with interest, but the slight smile on my face let him know that I was not a firm believer.

He was determined to convince me. I listened as he retold the story: "They only ripen in the dark of the night." Not knowing much about strawberries, it seemed to me that the strawberries probably were not turning red while someone sat there and watched them.



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Instead, during the 10-12 hours of darkness — while no one was around the strawberries — it appeared as though they changed overnight.

"Oh no, that's not right," he said, "it has to be dark for them to turn red." I certainly did not care to (nor was I in a position to) argue with him and so I accepted his explanation, paid for my strawberries, and left.

As I drove on down the road reflecting on my study in strawberries I thought, "Maybe he's right. Why not?"

Then I began to think about how the Lord works in us. How many times does God take us into the dark moments of life in order to refine the brightness

and the beauty of his character and likeness? I have watched through the years as great saints exhibited the beautiful colors of faith out of difficult and dark experiences.

Sometimes it was a tragedy that, in time, became a triumph; a loss that became a gain; a down moment that God used to lift someone to new, heavenly realms; a closed door that opened the gates of opportunity in another direction; a shattered dream out of which came a new and brilliant vision.

I wondered, "What did God do and what happened in the hearts of those people who went through the dark times in life, enabling them to become

the bright saints of God?"

I thought about those long and lonely days on the backside of the desert for Moses. I thought of a night in the lion's den, of a walk in a fiery furnace, of days on the ark, of agony in prayer in a garden, of hours on a cross.

God seems to be doing some of his most brilliant work in the dark times of life. Most of the time you and I cannot see it, and it is at those times that God calls on us to trust him.

Think of the words of the great hymn, "Have Faith in God: Have faith in God when your pathway is lonely, he sees and knows all the ways you have trod, never alone are the least of his children, have faith in God, have faith in God."

If it is dark where you are, rather than lashing out at the night, why not look for God's maturing, sweetening, ripening, bettering process that may be going on in your own life?

It happens with strawberries, and at times, it happens with saints!



# Price to be honored with MC scholarship

CLINTON, Miss. (Special) — World-renowned diva Leontyne Price, a native of Laurel, presented a master class April 28 at Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton as part of the celebration to honor her acceptance

of the Baptist-affiliated school's offer to establish a voice scholarship in her name.

The Leontyne Price Voice Scholarship will be awarded annually to a voice major selected by the MC music faculty.



**MASTER CRITIQUE** — Seven Mississippi College (MC) students were critiqued by internationally-acclaimed vocal artist Leontyne Price (center) April 28 during a master class on the Baptist-affiliated school's Clinton campus. The students, who were accompanied by MC music instructor Carol Joy Sparkman (left) were (from left after Sparkman): Kimberly Alexander of DeKalb, Jason Young of Starkville, Walter Swan of Hazlehurst, Phillip Hill of Jackson, Jillian Knight of Pearl, Jeremy Little of New Hebron, and Amanda Milam of Jackson. (BR special photo by Jesse Worley)

Price, a graduate of Juilliard School of Music in New York City, debuted in Paris in 1952 and then began to tour the world. Her remarkable 1961 performance in "Il Trovatore" with the New York Metropolitan Opera evoked an unprecedented 42-minute ovation.

She was named "A Remarkable American Woman — 1776-1976" during Life magazine's bicentennial celebration, and she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Lyndon Johnson.

President Ronald Reagan presented her with the first Medal of Arts, and the governments of France and Italy have also recognized her life and career.

Susie Jordan, chair of the scholarship fund committee and director of the MC downtown services office in Jackson, said, "The committee has decided to keep the scholarship open to further donations because it is such a unique opportunity to honor a legend in opera, our alma mater, and our first-rate music department simultaneously."

"It is not about money, but about associating our quality program with a name in music that exemplifies quality. She has been an inspiration to students for many years and we want that to continue," Jordan said.

For more information, contact Jordan at (601) 925-7191.

## NAMB sets \$150,000 for storm victims

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — The North American Mission Board (NAMB) has released \$150,000 in disaster assistance funds to help victims of deadly tornadoes in Oklahoma on May 3.

The money will be used primarily for \$500 grants to individual families through local churches, said Jim Burton, director of volunteer mobilization for NAMB.

Contributions to the NAMB disaster assistance fund may be sent to Disaster Relief — Midwest Tornadoes, North American Mission Board, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022.

## B&H to introduce new Bible translation by 2004

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Broadman & Holman (B&H) Publishers is producing a new Bible translation expected to be on bookshelves by 2004.

Named the Holman Christian Standard Bible (CSB), the translation will combine commitment to accuracy in communicating the original text and modern-day readability, said Kenneth H. Stephens, president of Broadman & Holman, the trade publishing arm of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Up until now, every English translation of the Bible has been a tradeoff between accuracy and readability," Stephens said. "The more accurate it was, the harder it was to read, and the more reader-friendly it was, the more it drifted from a precise translation of the original text. With our Bible, we've eliminated the tradeoff."

The Holman Christian Standard Bible will be a fresh, precise translation of the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek of the Old and New Testaments, using the latest research in textual criticism along with sophisticated computer technology to check the accuracy of meaning in each word, B&H officials stated.

The Gospel of John has been completed, with all four gospels and the Book of Revelation set to be finished by the end of 1999. The New Testament is targeted for completion by the end of 2000, with the entire Bible to be released by 2004.

Holman CSB general editor Edwin Blum of Dallas is working with a 78-person team of translators, lexicologists, stylists and other scholars around the world. A smaller six-person

team is headquartered in Dallas. Team members represent 20 denominations, including Southern Baptists, Plymouth Brethren, Presbyterians (PCA), Congregationalists, Church of England, Church of God, Evangelical Free Church, Methodists, Evangelical Mennonites, and Episcopalians.

Work on the new translation began in 1984 as an independent project of Arthur Farstad, who served as general editor for the New King James Version. Broadman & Holman joined forces with Farstad in 1998. Only months after beginning his collaboration with B&H, Farstad died. Leadership of the editorial team passed to Blum, a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary who had been an integral part of the team.

The new translation will maintain use of traditional, theologically significant words such as "grace" and "justification" and it will offer word studies to help readers grasp their full meaning, Blum said. Additionally, it will provide footnotes to show alternate translations and alternate textual readings, cross references, and explanatory material.

In trying to make the Bible more reader-friendly, more relevant, and more politically correct, many contemporary translators have sacrificed accuracy and precision of the original text, said David R. Shepherd, vice president

of Bible publishing for B&H.

"Some recent translations have reinterpreted the Bible to make it consistent with current trends and their own way of thinking," Shepherd said. "Current trends in Bible translation have been a real wake-up call for everybody who's concerned about preserving the integrity of Scripture. The Holman Christian Standard will be under the stewardship of Christians who believe we should conform our lives and

culture to the Bible — not the other way around."

Broadman & Holman Publishers is the trade publishing division of LifeWay Christian Resources based in Nashville, Tenn.

Holman, America's oldest Bible publisher, is B&H's Bible imprint. Messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta in June are invited to pick up a free copy of the newly-translated Book of John at the LifeWay exhibit.

## Miss. Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra will tour June 5-11

The 1999 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra will be on tour June 5-11, presenting concerts throughout Mississippi, Kentucky, and Tennessee. This year's schedule includes:

**Saturday, June 5**  
Petal-Harvey Church, Petal  
6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, June 6**  
Hillcrest Church, Jackson  
10:15 a.m.  
Carriage Hills Church, Southaven  
6:00 p.m.

**Monday, June 7**  
First Church, Hopkinsville, Ky.  
7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 8**  
Southern Baptist Church Music Conference  
First Church, Nashville, Tenn.  
11:00 a.m.

**Wednesday, June 9**  
Concord Church, Chattanooga, Tenn.  
6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, June 10**  
First Church, Tupelo  
7:00 p.m.

**Friday, June 11**  
Alta Woods Church, Jackson  
7:00 p.m.

The choir, which totals 112 members, is composed of 9-12 graders from churches throughout Mississippi. They were selected through an audition process after being recommended by their music director or pastor. The choir is under the direction of Richard Joiner of Mississippi College in Clinton. The orchestra is directed by David Young of William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

For more information about an individual concert or the All-State Choir program, contact the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3266, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

## Revival results

**Escatawpa (Jackson):** May 2-5; 35 saved; Gary Bowlin, Brandon, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale, music. Greg Johnston, pastor.

## ANNIVERSARY PLANNED

Editor:

First Church, Moss Point, will celebrate its 125th anniversary on Sept. 5. All members, former members, and friends are invited to worship with us. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive information on the celebration, call the church at (228) 475-8142 or mail the information to 4807 Main Street, Moss Point, MS 39563.

Carolyn Young  
Moss Point

## STUDENTS WELCOME

Editor:

The Air Force Academy Baptist Student Union is a widely recognized organization and is here for the purpose of contributing to cadets' spiritual growth. Through the support of our North American Mission Board, Colorado Baptist General Convention, Pikes Peak Association, and churches, the BSU provides a most active and effective ministry. We seek to minister to cadets through involvement in Bible study, discipleship training, evangelism training, local church participation, worship, fellowship, and mission endeavors.

Please contact us at 550 W. Woodmen Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80919, (719) 599-9094, or email: dgregory@KKT.V.COM. Also, for anyone attending West Point, the Naval Academy, or Coast Guard Academy similar ministries are

provided. At West Point contact: Bill Blackwell, 29 Sheldon Dr., Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12518, (914) 534-3944. At the Naval Academy contact: Kirk Ritchey, 201 Hanover St., Annapolis, MD 21401, (410) 263-0963. At the Coast Guard Academy contact: Thom Thornton, 33 Perry St., New London, CT 06320, (860) 437-1652.

Dwain Gregory  
Baptist Student Ministries  
Colorado Springs, CO

## JESUS IS ONLY WAY

Editor:

In the letters to the editor on April 1, Donald R. Windham felt "compelled to challenge your editorial opinion" on the statement of President Clinton concerning meeting his good friend King Hussein in heaven. You were exactly right in your editorial for the Bible clearly teaches that Jesus is the one and only way into the Kingdom of God.

Surely (Windham) knows that a person does not go to hell because he mistreats his neighbor — he goes to hell because he rejects Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior of his soul. There will be no believers in hell — only unbelievers, for the promise of Jesus in John 3:16 and John 10:27-30 points this out.

He asked the question, "Even if King Hussein was a Muslim, will he meet the criteria at the final judgment?" The believer's sins were judged at Calvary, John 5:24, and we will never face them. Muslims reject Jesus as the

Son of God, thus they will stand before him at the great white throne judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).

Rev. 21:8 points out that the "unbelieving" will spend eternity in hell, not in heaven. A person is not saved by works, goodness, morality, or religion

(Luke 18:10-11) but by repenting of sin and trusting Jesus to forgive him and save him.

Thank you for clearly stating this in your editorial.

H. D. Smith Jr., pastor  
Western Hills Church  
Shreveport, La.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS



Fourteen ministry assistants from Mississippi attended the National Association of Southern Baptist Secretaries Conference at LifeWay Conference Center at Glorieta, April 28-30. The outgoing president was Elizabeth Godfrey from Fairview Church, Columbus. The newly-elected president is Jane Barrett from Mt. Hebron Church, Elmore, Ala.

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## REVIVAL DATES

**Good Hope (Leake):** May 30-June 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; lunch to follow a.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John Sharpe, Harperville, evangelist; Leroy Stuart, Clinton, music. Wayne McGee, pastor.

**Union, Raleigh:** June 11-13; Fri., drama banquet, 6 p.m.; Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jim McNeil, Bible dramatist. Stephen Forfer, pastor.

**Becker, Becker:** May 30-June 2; Sunday, noon meal, and 7 p.m.; Billy Smith will bring morning message; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, guest speaker; David Jay, pastor.

**Harperville, Harperville:** June 19-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thu., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; David Grumbach,

Newton, evangelist; Scott Vaughn, Decatur, music; John Sharp, pastor.

**Crooked Creek, Silver Creek:** May 30-June 4; Sun., 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; lunch to follow a.m. service; Mon.-Fri., meal at 6 p.m.; services at 7 p.m.; Ed Sheppard, Mobile, speaker; Hubert Greer, Wesson, music. Robert Dunn, pastor.

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# 'Gambling impact statements' proposed

A federal commission nearing the end of its work voted to recommend state and local governments require "gambling impact statements" when gambling is being introduced or significantly expanded.

The recommendation of such statements, similar to environmental impact statements now required of businesses, was one of nearly 70 proposals approved by the National Gambling Impact Study Commission during its May 17-18 meeting in Washington.

The nine-member panel, which includes Pascagoula radiologist Paul Moore, considered more than 200 recommendations in its latest deliberations. The commission, which was established by Congress in 1996, will conclude its two-year study with a report to be released June 18.

The "gambling impact statements" would seek to predict the economic and social effects on the region. They would be conducted by independent organizations.

It is "one of our most important recommendations," commissioner Richard Leone, who made the proposal, told reporters. "I think a lot of uninformed decisions are being made, and they're being made in circumstances where the big picture is not being considered."

Among the other recommendations approved were:

- Betting on collegiate and other amateur athletic events, even in states where sports wagering is now legal, should be prohibited. (Sports betting is legal in Delaware, Nevada, and Oregon, with Nevada the prime location for gambling on athletic contests.)

- Legalized gambling, as well as loitering in gambling areas, should be banned for those under 21 years of age.

- Internet gambling should be outlawed.

- The federal government should encourage foreign governments not to harbor Internet gambling operations.

- State-sponsored lotteries should be blocked from adding

casino-style instant games.

- Pari-mutuel gambling facilities, including racetracks, should be prevented from adding casino-style games primarily to salvage their business.

- Convenience gambling, such as video poker in neighborhood stores, should be outlawed in states where it exists, and states without convenience gambling should refuse to introduce it.

- Automated-teller machines and devices activated by credit or debit cards should be banned from casino floors and other areas where gambling occurs.

- "Cruises to nowhere," which exist for the purpose of gambling off the coast of the United States, should be prohibited unless the state from which they originate legalizes such cruises.

- Warnings of the risks of gambling and, where feasible, the odds of winning should be prominently posted in all gambling facilities.

- Aggressive advertising of government-approved gambling should be banned, especially that targeting youth and low-income neighborhoods.

- Congress should amend truth-in-advertising laws to apply to Indian gambling and state-run lotteries.

- "Best-practices" regulations for state government-sponsored lotteries should be developed.

- Gambling facilities should develop policies allowing gamblers to request they be banned from entering an establishment for a specified time.

- Gambling facilities should refuse service to customers who show evidence of being problem or pathological gamblers.

- Students of elementary age to college age should be warned of the dangers of gambling.

The panel also approved numerous proposals calling for further research, including one calling for state and tribal governments to require gambling operations to fund research and treatment on problem gambling.

The commission passed some recommendations commenting positively on forms of gambling, including one recognizing casinos have shown an ability to help local economies, especially in impoverished communities, by creating quality jobs and one suggesting different levels of government recognize tribal gambling can produce economic development.

Among the recommendations defeated were those calling for states to tax lottery tickets, for states to require casinos to issue to customers statements showing the amounts wagered and lost, and for Indian tribes to be blocked from placing casinos on newly acquired lands.

The commission, which has no authority to enforce its recommendations, will meet again June 2-3 in San Francisco. The report will be the first national one on gambling since 1976.

## MC to offer continuing ed. for seniors

Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education offers a Senior Adult Education Program year-round for adults age 55 and older who are interested in taking college courses. The Senior Adult Education Program (\$50 fee per course) allows senior adults to register for and attend selected academic courses. The registration deadline for the fall session is Aug. 16. Interested persons may contact Ken Gilliam at (601) 925-3263.



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1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

*But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).*

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## VBS DATES

Rock Hill, Brandon: May 31-June 4; 6-8:30 p.m.; nursery through 6th grade.

Raymond Road, Jackson: June 7-11; 6-8:30 p.m.; children ages 4 through 6th grade; for

more information, call the church at (601) 372-6154.

Edon, Stringer: June 13-18; 6-8:45 p.m.; commencement, June 18, 6:30 p.m.; enroll by calling Danon Jenkins at (601) 649-3364.

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**WADE BAPTIST CHURCH** in Wade, MS, is searching for a full-time minister of music. Please forward resume to the following address: Music Search Committee, c/o Don Miller, 2716 Dogwood Lane, Pascagoula, MS 39581. Please stamp it confidential.

**BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC** is needed at Gunter Road Baptist Church. Send resumes to Dick Steadman, 1220 Gunter Rd., Florence, MS 39073.

**PART-TIME SECRETARY**, hrs. 9-1 M-F. Call between hours of 9-11 M-F at (601) 992-9977.

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**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH** is looking for someone to work with youth part-time. Write P.O. Box 543, Butler, AL, 36904, or call 205-398-3899 and leave message on answering machine.

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**WANTED: YOUTH MINISTER.** Growing church. Send resumes to: First Baptist Church, Idlewild & Hanson Street, Easton, MD. 21601.

**GARAGE SALE ITEMS NEEDED** for Morrison Heights Baptist Church Mission Teams fund raiser, July 17. Donations of all items are being accepted until July 2. Please call Dennis or Tracy at (601) 925-6429 for more information.

**YOUTH OUTINGS?** Outdoor paintball games! Year-round! 10 years experience. Book yours today! Curry Creek Outdoors, 1161 Old Hwy 49, Seminary, MS 39479, (601) 722-9000.

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**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH** is accepting resumes for full-time director of music and youth. Send to Attn: Search Committee, P.O. Box 543, Butler, AL, 36904, or call 205-459-3335.

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## STAFF CHANGES

**Paul Truitt Memorial Church**, Pearl, has named **Paul Trosper** as new minister of youth. Trosper is a native of Louisville, and is a junior at Mississippi College in Clinton, majoring in Christian Studies.



Trosper

**Pecan Grove Church**, Ellisville, called **Chris Wheeler** as pastor on April 25. He previously served at Bassfield Church, Bassfield.

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Yancey



James

**First Church, Laurel** will hold Renewal '99 at 6 p.m. each Sunday in June. Special guests leading worship and renewal services will be Rex Yancey, pastor, First Church, Pascagoula; Benjamin B. James Jr., pastor, Crowder Church, Crowder; Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer, Miss. Baptist Convention Board; and Paul Powell, former president and CEO, Annuity Board.



Futral



Powell

**Trevor Thomas**, actor/entertainer, will be in concert at Indian Springs Church, Laurel, May 30 at 6:30 p.m. Thomas is a graduate of the University of South Florida. Josh Coates, pianist, has joined Thomas in ministry. Coates is a graduate of Tennessee Temple University.

**New Salem Church, Columbus**, held ground breaking ceremonies for a new sanctuary on April 11. Pictured (from left) are Don Gilmer and

Clay Shepherd, members of the building committee; Roy Myers, interim pastor; Tommy Vaughn,

chairman, building committee; Eddie Rushing, building committee; and Ted Conn, builder.



Ground breaking at New Salem Church, Columbus

### Georgia's Cox nominated for SBC VP

ATLANTA (BP) — Frank Cox, Atlanta-area pastor and former president of the Georgia Baptist Convention, will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) at the SBC annual meeting June 15-16 in Atlanta.

Cox will be nominated by James G. Merritt, pastor of First Church, Snellville, Ga., and chairman of the SBC Executive Committee.

Cox, 43, married Mary Roderick in 1987. His first wife, Debbie Holcomb, died of a brain tumor in 1986. He has three children: Stephen Franklin, 17; Jonathan Ryan, 10; and Kristen Noel, 8.

## Slain Colo. student's family to speak in Atlanta

ATLANTA (BP) — The father and brother of one of the students slain at Columbine High School will speak at a contemporary Christian concert June 12 and Sunday worship service in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention's upcoming annual meeting.

Daryl Scott, father of Rachel Joy Scott, and his 16-year-old son,

Craig, will travel from their home in Littleton, Colo., to address the two events, said Jerry Drace, president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists.

Rachel Scott was among at least three students gunned down for answering "Yes" when two gun- and pipe bomb-wielding classmates asked if they believed in God. Scott and Cassie Bernall died April 20,

along with 10 other students and a teacher, before the gunmen took their own lives. Valeen Schnurr, meanwhile, survived nine bullet and shrapnel wounds in also acknowledging her faith in God.

The 7 p.m. Saturday "Getting Free" contemporary Christian concert will feature two nationally known groups, Smalltown Poets and Third

Day, in addition to the Scotts' testimonies. Admission is free.

The 9:15 a.m. Sunday worship service in the park again will feature the Scotts, along with preaching by John Phillips, a Bible teacher from Wilmington, N.C., and Glenn Sheppard, an evangelist from Conyers, Ga. Music will be provided by the Stone Brothers trio and the worship team from Fortified Hills Church, Smyrna, Ga.

The Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists is the prime organizer of the youth concert, the first such outreach in connection with an SBC annual meeting and the preceding Crossover evangelistic emphasis, and of the worship service, which Drace, an evangelist based in Humboldt, Tenn., helped inaugurate last year in Salt Lake City.

## 'kidzplace' to focus children on Christ

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — A new website that 12-year-old Matthew Chappellear learned about in Royal Ambassadors has brought him closer to a personal relationship with Christ, his mother said.

"He came home from RAs asking, 'Mom, can I go to kidzplace?'" said Donna Chappellear of Mustang, Okla. "Matthew is a special education student and really loves the electronic world. After visiting the site several times, he is asking more questions and coming closer to understanding his need for Christ."

Approximately 3,000 people have visited [www.kidzplace.org](http://www.kidzplace.org) since its release in Nov. 1998.

"From the 3,000, we have about a 1% response rate," said Robert Strickland, editorial coordinator of mission educa-

tion websites for the North American Mission Board and co-designer of the website.

This translates into nine responses indicating a salvation experience and 14 responses to learn more about Christ in the last four months.

The site is targeted to children in grades 1-6, but visitors range from every age group.

When visitors click on the "Meet Max's Friend" icon, they see and hear a clear gospel presentation, including Scripture references. Beginning with creation, the narration continues through sin and separation from God, the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, and ends with an explanation of repentance and a relationship with God.

At the end of the presentation, the visitor has an opportunity to respond, either to learn more about Jesus, or to indicate he or she has accepted Christ as savior. All responses are sent to NAMB's family evangelism unit for follow-up.

A packet of information is sent to the parents, including a letter explaining their child's visit to kidzplace.org and his or her resulting decision.

A children's tract, "God's Special Plan," and a brochure, "The World's Greatest

Adventure," are also sent to help parent and child understand the decision he or she made, as well as assist their spiritual growth process.

State evangelism leaders receive a copy of the family's name and address to facilitate placement into a local church.

### HOMECOMINGS

**Bethel, Holcomb:** May 30; services, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch at noon in fellowship hall.

**Center Hill, Hamilton:** June 6th; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; memorial/worship service, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch at noon followed by gospel singing featuring The Messengers; James M. Towery, pastor.

**Bowlin, Sallis:** June 13; 11 a.m.; Johnny Parks, Kosciusko, guest speaker; Bobby Oakes, pastor.

**Union, Tylertown:** June 6; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; services, 10:45 a.m.; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon singing by the Graves Sisters; Ricky Gray, Brandon, speaker; Douglas Lee, interim pastor.

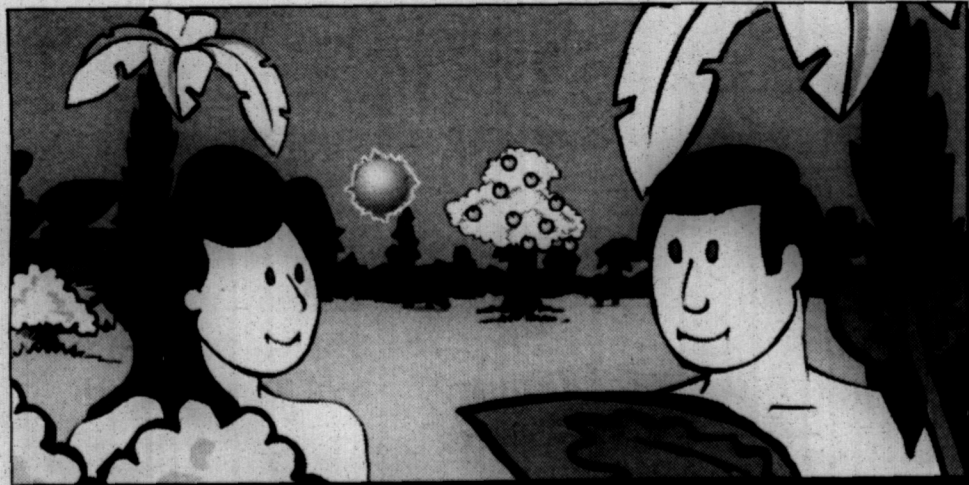
**West Shady Grove (Wayne):** June 6; services, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall at noon; Grady D. Crowell, guest speaker; James K. Burke, interim pastor.

**Rock Hill, Brandon:** May 30; services, 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall; Jerry Slonaker, Carson, guest speaker; Clyde Luther, Carraway, Wiggins, music; Tim Canterbury, pastor.

**Arlington, Bogue Chitto:** May 30; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; 2 p.m., afternoon singing; Cletus Moak, Meadville, guest speaker; Floyd Grice, Laurel, music; Bob Lynch, pastor.

**New Hope, Coffeeville:** June 6; services, 10:45 a.m.; covered dish dinner on the grounds followed by afternoon singing; William McDaniel, Holcomb, guest speaker; Donnie Stewart, interim pastor.

**McDowell Road, Jackson:** June 6; Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; services, 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; John Hilbun, former pastor, speaker; Lee Renfro, pastor.



Screen shot of the Garden of Eden from NAMB's Kidzplace



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

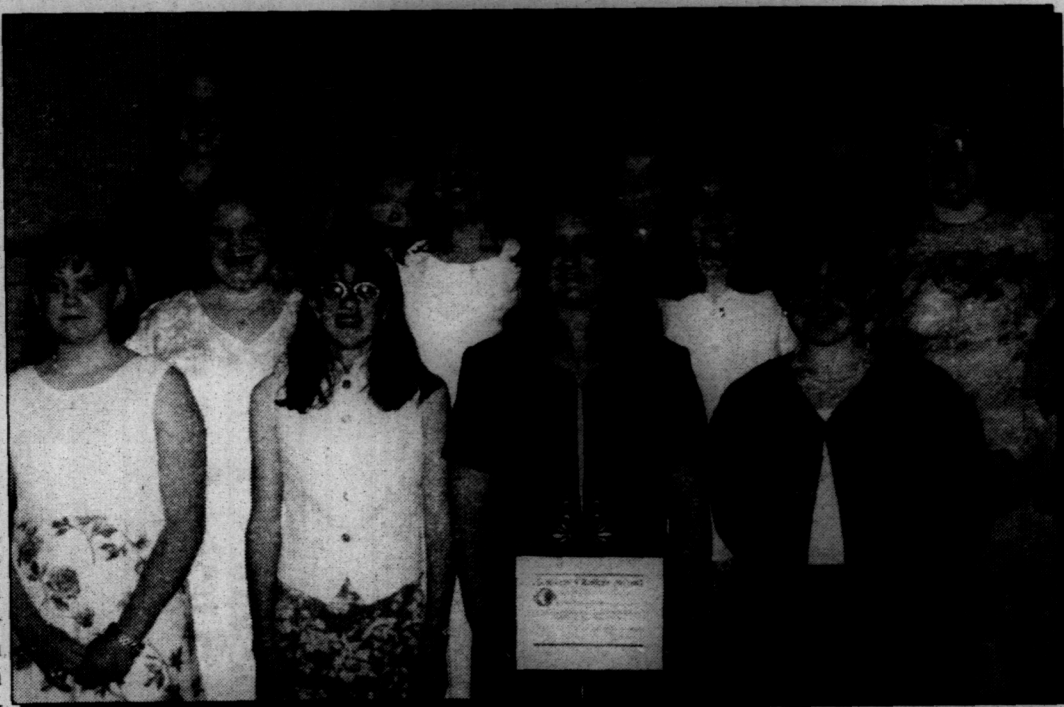


**Brett Mann and Hunter Hearn**, members of the Larry and Alicia Braswell RA Chapter at Second Church, Greenville, won 12 medals and three other awards during Lad/Crusader Day at Central Hills. Larry Braswell was the missionary speaker at the event, and two of his sons, Wray and Drew, were in attendance. Pictured (from left) are Larry Braswell, Drew Braswell, Hearn, Wray Braswell, Mann, and James Kerr, RA director.

The youth choir of Raymond Road Church, Jackson will present the musical "Because We Believe" at Woodville Heights Church, Jackson, June 1 at 7 p.m., and again at Raymond Road Church, June 2 at 6 p.m.

**Highland Church, Vicksburg**, recently held an Acteen recognition service. Acteens receiving MissionQuest awards were (front row, from left) Leighann Van Devender, Amber Dunaway, Gina Harrison (Mississippi Citation award), Marla Richardson, (sec-

ond row) Johnna Harvey, Amanda Geltinger, Nicole Bilbo, Teri Burch, (back row) Jessica Keown, Louann Amick, Brittany Breazeale, and Anna Larson.



**Acteens of Highland Church, Vicksburg**

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**RAYMOND CULPEPPER**, *Metropolitan Church of God, Birmingham, Alabama.*

### PLENARY BIBLE TEACHER:

**WARREN WIERSBE**, *former senior minister of Moody Memorial Church, Chicago, Illinois; noted preacher on the "Back to the Bible" radio program.*

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JOHN PIPER



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TIMOTHY GEORGE



WARREN WIERSBE



BARBARA JOINER



RAYMOND CULPEPPER



**Tony Massey** was ordained during a service held May 2 at Harperville Church, Harperville. The service was conducted by John Sharp, pastor, Harperville Church; Jim Pender, pastor, Parkway Church, Morton; and Johnny Beaver, pastor, Wiggins Church, Carthage. Massey has been called to serve as minister of music to Parkway Church.

**The Baptist Student Union** of Meridian Community College recently won the B.G. Raden Achievement Award which is given to the most outstanding campus organization. Pictured are (from left) Allison Harper; Jennifer Colburn, BSU director; Stacey Dean; Sheree Callahan; and Stephen Rogers, all of Meridian.

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# Pastor's role changed by deadly Kan. storm

HAYSVILLE, Kan. (BP) — Bo Graves says he will never forget 8:29 p.m. on May 3. That's when he went from being the senior pastor of a fast-growing church in a comfortable suburb to being the shepherd to a grief-stricken flock in a devastated community.



**TORNADO SURVIVOR** — Fran Swor (left) talks to Bo Graves, her pastor at First Church in Haysville, Kan. Swor and her husband lost their home in a May 3 tornado that killed five people in the Wichita metropolitan area. Their son, Marshall, narrowly escaped being crushed by the home's falling roof. (ABP photos by Rob Marus)

The sanctuary of First Church in Haysville, Kan., sits just two blocks east of the gash that a quarter-mile-wide tornado carved through the heart of this town of 10,000 on the south side of Wichita. In a few short minutes, the twister killed five people in Haysville and Wichita and injured more than 100 others.

Graves lost no church members, and his home and family suffered no damage or injuries. But he grieves with many church members who suffered the loss of friends, neighbors, homes, automobiles, family heirlooms, and even pets.

Nevertheless, he is thankful for many small miracles in the midst of the suffering — starting with his own protection. Graves related his personal story of the disaster: "I was here at the church for a meeting when the police department called." The church basement serves as a storm shelter for the neighborhood. As about 50 residents crouched on the floor amid the sounds of the mounting storm and the wailing torna-

do sirens outside, Graves did something that probably would have cost his life if the tornado had taken a slightly more eastward track. "Stupid me. When it actually hit, I was upstairs in the pantry getting some coffee cups for the people downstairs."

The church building suffered no damage other than a 2-by-6 board — shot more than two blocks from the tornado funnel — that embedded itself in a wall.

Three other churches in Haysville didn't fare so well. They were completely destroyed, including Victory Church, an independent Baptist congregation two blocks down Grand Avenue from First Church. It was swept clean of its foundation, leaving only an upright piano to mark the former sanctuary.

After Graves emerged from the shelter and confirmed that his family was safe, he began hearing about other little evidences of providence among his church family.

"We had one church member who was caught right in the middle of an intersection" in the tornado, he said. "It spun her car around three times and shot a two-by-four straight through the windshield. It barely missed her head."

"God really spared her."

An 84-year-old church member survived by hiding in her home's center closet — the only part of the house left standing after the storm. Fran Swor and her son, Marshall, were at their home in the center of the damage path when the tornado struck. They narrowly escaped death. Fran woke her son, who was asleep on a living-room sofa, when she heard the tornado sirens. Minutes later, the tornado tore into the house, blowing out the living room wall and dropping the roof on top of the sofa where Marshall had been sleeping. "If I hadn't been home, he would have been killed," she said.

But the joy of the protection was tempered by the news that their neighbor to the south — an 83-year-old man — was among those killed in the storm. And Fran and her husband, Lloyd, lost their home and most of their possessions.

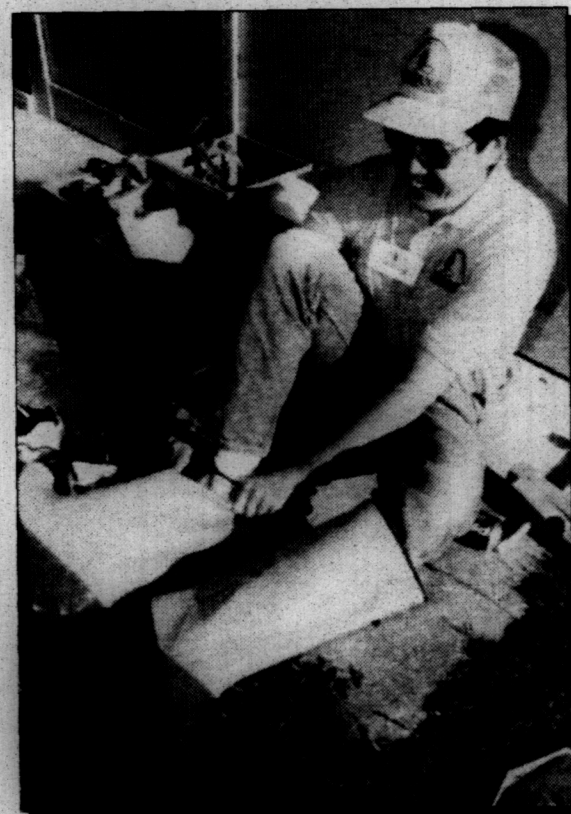
They also lost more than 20 old-growth oaks and birches — highly valued on the treeless plains of Kansas. "I didn't care that much about the house, but the trees are what has broken my heart," Fran Swor said. Her grief was mirrored dozens of times over across the community and elsewhere in the First Church congregation. In all, eight families from the church had their homes completely destroyed by the storm.

Several more suffered some sort of damage.

The American Red Cross reported that in the entire community of Haysville and south Wichita, a total of 1,109 homes were completely destroyed, another 2,249 suffered "major damage," and 5,126 sustained "minor damage."

But Graves and other church members have busied themselves helping the wounded rather than wasting time asking why such a thing would happen. The pastor has been busy visiting bereaved families and coordinating relief efforts.

Several dozen members joined the Baptist disaster relief teams and Red Cross volunteers serving meals at the church, which served as an emergency feeding center. A 16-member Missouri Baptist disaster relief team set up an emergency food-service unit on the church grounds on May 6, joined by a Tennessee team on May 7.



**CLEANING UP** — Tony Stamp, a member of Oak Hill Baptist Church in St. Louis, puts on rubber boots before using a high-speed power washer to hose down an area of the Haysville church's parking lot. The area was cleaned so Stamp's Missouri Baptist disaster relief team could set up an emergency feeding center.

## Lottie Moon goals surpassed

**First, Macon:** goal, \$8,500; amount received, \$9,441.87.

**Pheba, Pheba:** goal, \$2,500; amount received, \$3,321.06.

**First, Terry:** goal, \$10,000; amount received, \$13,095.93.

## N.C. convention to consider plan for cooperation

ASHEBORO, N.C. (BP) — In an emotional session May 18, the Baptist Convention of North Carolina's general board voted overwhelmingly to approve in concept an unprecedented proposal designed to foster increased cooperation between moderate and conservative Baptists in the state.

The plan calls for a new method of electing both convention officers and general board officers. The proposal would significantly increase the likelihood that representatives from the two largest groups in North Carolina Baptist life — currently "moderates" and "conservatives" — would share in leadership.

The plan calls for officers of the convention and the board to be elected from the convention

floor in alternating years. When convention officers are to be elected, one vote would be held for president. The top two vote-getters would become president and president-elect. They would serve for two years. In the second year, the president-elect would become president and the president would become past president. A single vote for vice president would result in the two leading candidates becoming first and second vice-president, also for a two-year term. Any number of candidates could run for office.

All four officers would serve as a nominating committee to recommend the 15-member Committee on Committees, which must be approved by the general board. The Committee on Committees appoints other

convention committees, including the Committee on Nominations, which nominates directors and trustees of convention agencies and institutions, as well as members of the general board.

In alternate years, a president, president-elect, and two vice-presidents of the general board would be elected by the convention messengers in the same manner and would serve for two years. Previous board membership would not be required for election to those offices. All eight elected officers would serve on the general board's executive committee, which conducts much of the convention's business and hires convention employees.

Currently, BSC officers are chosen at the annual meeting in separate elections for each posi-

tion, while the general board elects its own officers. In both cases, officers are elected for one-year terms, though second terms are customary.

The proposal will be forwarded to the BSC Constitution Committee, which will refine the constitutional language necessary for its presentation to the BSC's annual meeting, Nov. 15-16 in Winston-Salem. The proposal includes constitutional changes, which require a two-thirds majority for approval, and bylaw changes, which need a simple majority.

The draft copy requires that the two top vote-getters together must have more than 75% of the vote in order to be elected. If no two candidates gain the required percentage in the election, a run-off would be held.



## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### One in spirit

John 17:1-5, 9-21

By Beth W. Cape

Of all the things written in the history of literature, this week's lesson studies the longest conversation ever recorded between God and God! This prayer occurred shortly before Jesus went to the Mount of Olives where he would be betrayed by Judas and arrested.

In the beginning of his prayer he said, "I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave me to do." In this passage we see the

perfect obedience of Jesus through which he brought glory to God and eternal life to his people.

God had a plan for Jesus' life. In the same way he has a mission for each of our lives. He is the creator of each of us and knows exactly what he made us to do and be. To find that plan, we must live in obedience to him.

Obedience begins with self-discipline. There's that word again — discipline. Yuck! It's not always fun, but it's for the

best in the long run. We must have discipline in eating so we will take the best care of our bodies.

It's not easy to get up early to have quiet moments in the Word and in prayer but it makes the rest of our day and even our life much better. An exercise program is tough at first but it makes you feel much better.

All these examples make our lives better but the most important part is developing our self-discipline. Maybe a better word is "God-discipline" because we know we can't do anything without God's help.

Jesus set the example of perfect obedience by giving his very life. Compared to that, how can we complain about

any of the simple things that God asks of us?

Beginning in John 17:6, Jesus prayed many beautiful things for his disciples and even for us! He prayed for their protection, for their spiritual growth, for their unity, and for their sanctification.

Jesus said, "Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth." Sanctification or consecration means not only to be set apart for a special task but also to be equipped with the qualities of mind, heart, and character that are needed for that task.

William Barclay says, "We must always remember that God has chosen us out and dedicated us for His special service. That special service is that we should love and obey Him and should bring others to do the

same. And God has not left us to carry out that great task in our own strength, but out of His grace he fits us for our tasks, if we place our lives in His hands."

Lastly Jesus prayed for the unity of all believers. "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me."

Even though all churches will never worship in the same way or believe exactly the same things, the love of Christ for us and the love we are to have for each other, should transcend all differences. Only through this love will the world see the unity that is the answer to Christ's prayer.

Cape is director of children and family ministry at First Church, Picayune.



Cape

## LIFE AND WORK

### Did I say that?

Col. 3:8-9; James 3:3-12; 1 Pet. 3:8-11

By Doug Bain

During a Winter Bible Study of James some years back, I learned about a Sunday School assembly in which the opening song was "Oh, For A Thousand Tongues to Sing." A faithful lady who was rather uninhibited said, "Oh Lord, no, please! I can't even control the one I have!"

That report framed our discussion that evening about the power of the tongue. It also reminds us of the challenge of disciplined communication skills and that this is precisely one way God works in our hearts.

The thread of continuity in the following passages focuses attention on the significant contribution of the tongue in working toward living together

in a context of mutually helpful relationship — our final lesson installment on skills for building community.

**Control your speech (James 3:3-8).** The text uses the tongue as a graphic way of referring to our speech patterns, the power of our words, the things we say and talk about.

In the first century world, there were other things that also had power out of proportion to their size — a horse's bit, a ship's rudder, and a small spark.

In our 21st century world, the illustrations multiply, beginning with the computer chip and moving into the microcosm of subatomic particles. The power of the tongue

however, is the same across the centuries, with incredible potential for good or evil.

Verse 7b indicates that the task of mouth control is ultimately beyond our ability, with the larger context (vv. 13ff) indicating that precisely here God supplies wisdom for the challenge.

We may not need reminding — yet we always need reminding — that the tongue has become an instrument of war that has destroyed many a community. Community is only possible when words are constructively used, employing the package and delivery system of love.

**Be consistent in your speech (James 3:9-12).** Emerson is often remembered for saying that "a foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds." Yet there is a wise consistency, seen in these verses, that reflects a consistency observed in nature.

Salt water does not issue from a fresh water spring (in

spite of contaminated water tables). A fig tree does not bear olives (granted the ancient science of grafting). Taking into account bipolar disorders, a Godly heart does not produce ungodly talk that fragments and pollutes persons and community. Native Americans provided good insight when they warned against speaking with forked tongue.

**Avoid destructive speech (Col. 3:8-9).** This text speaks powerfully about our speech patterns. Colossian believers were to rid themselves of old unredeemed lifestyles.

Part of the immoral and fragmenting nature of that pagan lifestyle was slanderous talk, filthy talk, and false talk. Stretching or slanting the truth, innuendo, insinuation, speculation, bad mouthing — all these cast others in negative light and situate the speaker in negative context as well. Believers learn to avoid talk that threatens or destroys community.

Words that heal not only

build community, they reflect a heart that has received Grace!

**Constructive language (1 Pet. 3:8-10).** The text calls for believers to witness before the empire by living in harmony with each other. It exhorts us to keep our tongues from evil and destructive speech and to bless and build up.

In world that traffics in insult and intimidation, verse 9 provides Godly guidance: "do not repay evil with evil." That is redeemed living before a pagan world!

Community is a secure context of mutual interaction and support in which more is possible than any mere collection of individuals could ever accomplish. The ties of love that form the building blocks of community are forged as people respond to each other with positive and constructive words that reflect God's incredible love for us! Amen.

Bain is chairman and professor of the Biblical Division at Blue Mountain College.



Bain

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Praise God!

Psalms 150:1-6

By Ken Hester

In the mid-1950s, British minister W. E. Sangster began to notice some uneasiness in his throat and a dragging in his leg. When he went to the doctor, he found that he had an incurable disease that caused progressive muscular atrophy. His muscles would gradually waste away, his voice would fail, and he would soon become unable to swallow.

So, Sangster threw himself into his work in British home missions, figuring he could still write and he would have even more time in prayer. He wrote articles and helped organize prayer cells throughout England.

Gradually Sangster's legs became useless. He lost his

voice completely. He could, however, still manage a pen — shakily.

On Easter morning, just a few weeks before he died, he scribbled a note to his daughter. He wrote, "It is terrible to wake up on Easter morning and have no voice to shout, 'He is risen!' — but it would be more terrible to have a voice and not want to shout."

Such is the heart of the author of Psalm 150. He seems almost out of breath due to his enthusiasm. This psalm is the grand finale in the long melody of Hebrew worship songs. The psalm begins as it ends: with the inspired command to praise the Lord. The information in-between tells us how to praise.

**Praise fills the place (150:1).** The Old Testament Hebrew understood the sanctuary to be the Temple. As New Testament believers, our bodies are the sanctuaries of the Holy Spirit.

Praise, therefore, should spring up like fountain from within our hearts expressing the miraculous power of our Savior. Yet praise is not chaotic in its expression. Praise is properly focused.

**Praise focuses on the Person (150:2).** In this verse, we see the reason for such praise. One only has to step outside to be staggered at the numerous works of our Lord in creation. When that one steps inside the church, he again, is awed when he understands the stories of the people whose lives have been changed by the touch of the Master.

Praise, however, does not stop with thankfulness, but pushes forward to comple-

ments about God's character. The greatness of God is infinite when it comes to his righteousness, judgement, mercy, love, forgiveness, and power. God's greatness summons us to give our very best in praising him.

**Praise finds the players (150:3-5).** Those who understand God's greatness seek ways to express praise. St. Augustine commented on this passage by saying, "No kind of faculty is here omitted. All are enlisted in praising God."

Trumpets were used to announce the grandest and most solemn moments, such as the giving of the law or the coming of the king. As we praise the King of kings, other instruments are used, such as the psaltery and harp, the timbrel, other stringed instruments, and what the ancient Jews called a mouth organ.

Along with the dance, you might notice the acceptable variety in Biblical praise's expression. Not every one is a trumpet player. Not every one

plays the harp. Not every one masters the organ.

Though different, they discipline themselves under the conductor's authority to orchestrate a harmonious melody of praise. Such majestic music draws a crowd.

**Praise flushes the people (150:6).** Like a covey of flushed quail, the psalmist summons the voice of praise to be lifted up by every living creature. Those souls who cannot master a musical instrument are still able to join the music by employing the grandest instrument ever made, the human body.

Our very breath should be taken in praise to God. If something as fundamental as breathing is to be an act of praise, then how much more should our lifestyle shout the praises of our Lord?

May the realization of God's greatness so permeate our lives that we, like the psalmist, enlist others to join the chorus praise.

Hester is pastor of Mantee Church, Mantee.



Hester



## Kids Page



# Pros teach baseball, life at NAMB clinic

ROSWELL, Ga. (BP) — The Cincinnati Reds and Atlanta Braves had done battle on the field the night before and were scheduled to square off again that evening in Atlanta's Turner Field. But on the morning of May 1, several players from both teams joined forces on a high school baseball field in suburban Atlanta for a united stand for Christ.

After coaching several hundred young fans in the finer points of baseball, the players also helped provide the far more important instruction in the skills of life.

"I just challenge everybody to find out the reason why you're here, find out a pur-

pose and direction for your life," said Braves shortstop Walt Weiss. "Once you find out your life means something and there's a reason for you being here, and that God has a plan for you ... it makes all the difference in the world. That's where true self-esteem comes from."

The evangelistic sports clinic was sponsored by the North American Mission Board and Fellowship Bible Church in Roswell, Ga., as part of the Arms Around Atlanta evangelism and church-planting initiative, which began in April and extends through August. It was coordinated by the national ministry Unlimited Potential Inc., which conducts similar clinics around the country using pro athletes who are also strong Christians.

Instructors included Weiss and teammates and Rudy Seanez from the Braves, as well as Braves assistant coach Allen Butts. Players from the Reds included Eddie Taubensee and Scott Sullivan. Also on hand were Jeff Hearn, formerly of the Toronto Blue Jays; Skip Shipp, formerly of the Pittsburgh Pirates; and former Green Bay Packers quarterback Don Majkowski.

Shipp, who accepted Christ at age 16, said he enjoys participating in the clinics because they allow him to bring together baseball and his faith in Christ.

"When you can blend the two most important parts of your life together in one setting and share both at the same time, that's what makes the dream," he said.

For information on Arms Around Atlanta and volunteer opportunities, visit the [www.armsaroundatlanta.org](http://www.armsaroundatlanta.org) web site or contact coordinator Jane Barnes, (770) 936-5322 or [jbarnes@gabaptist.org](mailto:jbarnes@gabaptist.org).



WIND UP — William Ansley (left) gets the fundamentals of pitching from Scott Sullivan of the Cincinnati Reds during an evangelistic sports clinic in Roswell, Ga., on May 1. (BP photo by Stanley Leary)



**GET A GRIP** — Atlanta Braves shortstop Walt Weiss shows kids how to hold the baseball (with the hand touching all four of the seams) during an evangelistic sports clinic in Roswell, Ga., on May 1. (BP photo by Stanley Leary)

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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LHNR LERMRDXMR SX  
LEXZCEL DXM LER UXM-  
MXY: DXM LER UXMMXY  
PEHTT LHNR LEXZCEL  
DXM LER LEVSCP XD  
VLPRTD. PZDDVWVRS  
ZSLX LER AHK VP LER  
RBVT LERMRXD.

UHLLERY PVQ: LEVMLK-

DXZM

Clue: Z = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Haggai Two: Five.

## Missionary uses sports to reach out to Brazilians

SAO PAULO, Brazil (BP) — Spend five minutes with David Hammond and you'll probably hear him use the word "vision" repeatedly. Hammond's current vision involves reaching thousands of youth and adults with the gospel of Christ through sports ministry.

Based in the sprawling metropolis of Sao Paulo, one of the largest cities in the world, Hammond and his wife, Aimee, have been serving as Southern Baptist international missionaries to Brazil since 1984.

In a city with an estimated 250 basketball clubs, 250 tennis clubs, and more than 1,000 soccer clubs, "I'm trying to give a vision to the Baptists here to get involved in sports clubs and become missionaries through friendship evangelism," Hammond explained.

Accepting God's call to ministry at age 18, Hammond discovered he could combine his interest in sports and ministry. "In college, I majored in physical education because I loved sports. My calling wasn't to be a pastor but to minister." Adding theological training to his sports background with a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Texas, Hammond took his first mission trip to Brazil in 1979.

Serving with a sports team from Texas, "we had a great opportunity for witnessing," he recounted. "It opened up many doors. That was when God called me into missions."

The vision of a widespread

sports ministry in Sao Paulo took years to unfold, however. Hammond's first assignment in Brazil was to do urban evangelism, an opportunity which led to him becoming director of evangelism for the state of Piaui. He and his family later moved to Sao Paulo where he continued his involvement in evangelism.

During his first several years on the field, "we would periodically have one or two sports teams come down from the

States," he said. "But it was so new in Brazil, we weren't making much headway in using it as an evangelistic tool."

Noting that the hundreds of thousands of youth and adults involved in sports throughout Sao Paulo were "a mission field we weren't reaching," Hammond said, "That was my vision — seeing good people who were lost and Baptists weren't doing anything about it."

Sharing his burden for an

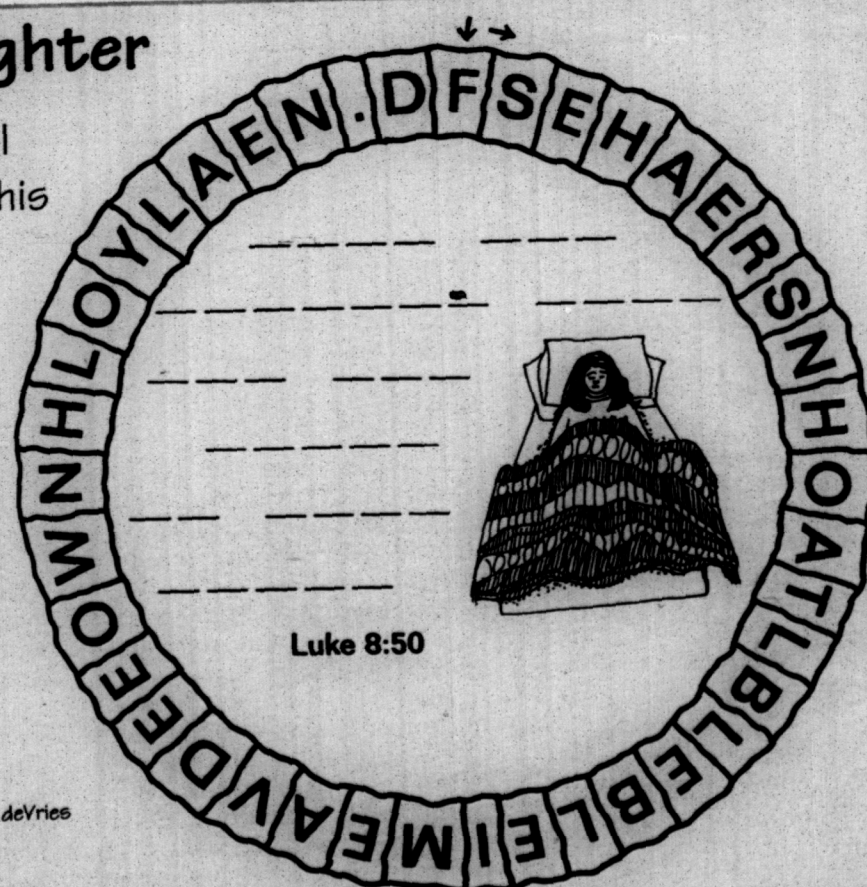
active evangelistic sports ministry, Hammond said Brazilian Baptist leaders urged him to "go for it" and his fellow missionaries adopted his plans as a top ministry priority.

Citing the plans for a proposed missions partnership with Arkansas Baptists, Hammond said sports ministry volunteers "would be able to be an example and help Brazilian leaders catch a vision of what can be done."

## Jarius' Daughter

What did Jesus tell Jairus to do when his daughter died?

To find out, write down every other letter from the circle below, beginning at the arrow and going clockwise.



From Bible Activity Sheets by Nellie deVries  
Cheryl S. Randall, Illustrator  
1992, Baker Book House Company  
Grand Rapids, MI